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LETTERS OF WILLIAM BARRY GROVE

EDITED BY

Henry McGilbert Wagstaff

LETTERS OF WILLIAM BARRY GROVE

Herewith are presented some letters, hitherto unpublished, of William Barry Grove to James Hogg. Grove, a native of Fayetteville, represented his district in Congress from 1791 to 1803. His friend and correspondent, James Hogg, a merchant, formerly resided in Fayetteville also, doing business in that town and in Wilmington. At the date of this correspondence he lived in Hillsboro. The letters cover the decade 1792-1802. Since they are few in number and scattered irregularly through the period they should be used only in connection with the Grove Letters (also to James Hogg) which have been edited and published by Dr. K. P. Battle in the Sprunt Monograph No. 3, 1902. These cover the same period and are complementary to those herewith presented. It is believed that the two series together make up the complete list of Grove's letters to Hogg while a member of Congress. The whole collection should prove valuable, historically, in that they portray the feelings and actions of a Southern Federalist at a time of high party tension in our national councils; this aside from their value as giving a more or less intimate view of the problems confronting the federal government, its hopes and fears, during the infancy of the Republic.

For an extended sketch of both Grove and Hogg see the James Sprunt Historical Monograph No. 3, 1902.

To James Hogg.

Phila. 20th Apl, 1792.

Dear Sir

The Session is drawing to a close & I hope the time is near at hand when I shall see all my friends in Carolina, nevertheless as Mr. Hunt¹ is going immediately to Hillsboro I cant omit writing

¹ Probably Memucan Hunt, of Granville, member of the first North Carolina Provincial Congress which met at Newbern August 25, 1774 to organize

you a few lines on the subject of Locks—Canals &c; I have agreeably to your desire² made particular enquiry respecting the form and materials proposed for Locks to be used in the navigation in this State, and from all I can learn either from a model which I have examined, or the conversation of some persons here who are skilled in that kind of work, our Lock gate &c. is on exactly the same plan & principles, We only differ as to the materials for the Lock, Stone is plenty here and to be used altogether—I refer you to the papers for the Political news; in one of these you will see a communication between Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Hammond³ respecting the operation and intention of a certain clause of the British Navigation act: I judge some negotiations are going on between The Plenipo. and The Secry. the nature of which are unknown; some private inquires have been made by the Secry. of the Delegation of No. C. which induces this belief in me, I wish they may terminate to the interests and satisfaction of both Countries.

I apprehend that nothing can be done this Session in Western Land Business,⁴ or indeed with the Merchants Memor.,⁵ both subjects are attended with circumstances perplexing to Congress—You may have heard that the L. House is to be finished, and that

resistance to England; also member of the Provincial Congress that met at Halifax, November 12, 1776, and formed the State Constitution.

2 Hogg was a member of the North Carolina Canal Company organized and chartered for the purpose of making the Cape Fear River navigable to the junction of the Haw and Deep rivers in the county of Chatham. It was a visionary scheme and part of the general plan of canal construction which amounted almost to a rage at this date, 1790-1800. See McMaster's *History of the People of the United States*, II., 74-75.

3 British Minister to the United States. Jefferson was Secretary of State in Washington's first cabinet.

4 James Hogg, Grove's correspondent, was a member of the Transylvania Land Company which assumed to buy of the Cherokee Indians an immense tract of country making up a part of the present states of Kentucky and Tennessee, hence he was vitally interested in the extinguishment of the Indians' claims by the U. S. Government. A petition from the company to this end rested before Congress in 1792-93. The sale was finally declared illegal by the States of North Carolina and Virginia though at the same time the company was allowed a compensation of 200,000 acres by way of compromise.

5 North Carolina merchants had suffered the loss of a certain cargo, in part slaves, that had drifted ashore upon one of the Bahamas and there con-

the District Fedl. Court is to sit at Wilmington alternately wh. Newbern & Edenton. The Indian business⁶ has made it necessary to increase the duties on importation $2\frac{1}{2}$ p Ct.; I suspect in these kind of matters *two & two* will not always make four; I confess I think commerce is already pretty well burthened. Be so good as remember me to all friends in and about Hillsboro.

I am

Dear Sir

with respect & Esteem

Your very Hum St

W. B. GROVE

To James Hogg.

Phila. Jany. 21st, 1795

Dear Sir

About a fortnight ago the Deeds & papers respecting your Indian purchase came forward, & at same time I recd. yours of the first Decemr. on the subject¹—the first opportunity was embraced to bring forward the Petition &c they were referred as usual to a Committee viz Mr. Smith S. Carolina, Mr. Blount,² Mr Carnes Georgia, & two others who reported they conceived the claim of the Transylvania Company's rested on the same ground & principle that other claims for Lands in our Western Country,

fiscated by the British authorities. The parties interested in the merchandise petitioned Congress to secure compensation but seem never to have been successful.

6 The Western Indians defeated General St. Clair on the Wabash River in the Northwest Territory, Nov. 3, 1791, causing general alarm in the whole western country. To provide a war fund Congress increased the duties on imports and sent out Mad Anthony Wayne to chastise the Indians.

1 Hogg's interest in the Transylvania Land Company has been explained in a former note. Grove was a warm advocate of the claims of the Company. This letter within itself very clearly outlines the nature of the Company's claims and the nature of its activities up to 1795.

2 Thomas Blount, member of Congress from North Carolina 1793-1799; 1803-1809; 1811-1812. He was a brother of Wm. Blount of Tennessee, senator from that state and expelled by the senate July 8, 1797, for exciting hostile incursions against Spain in the Louisiana Territory.

which had been ceded to the Un. States, & therefore that the Petition &c. of the Compy. should be referred to the Committee of the whole House who had under consideration the Subject of the Petition of Thomas Person³ & others with certain Resolutions of the North Carolina Legislature—Mr Macon⁴ & myself were of a different opinion, & he stated the reasons why the claims of the Company & other holders of Land in the Western Country differed from each other in some *important points*; but they were referred without any Special Reports and are now before the Committee of the whole House with the other claims of our State for Lands in the Territory ceded to the Cherokees; What the fate of the business will be is quite uncertain, tho I assure you, I fear not favourable.

An opinion is very generally entertained here that North Carolina had no good right to sell those Lands untill the Indian rights had been fairly *purchased*, or *extinguished*, and the Members from the State are not in possession of any Document to prove that has been done, since the Treaty held by authority of the State at Long Island of Holstein in May 1777—whereby the Indians seem to have been much favoured by the Boundary lines, & Treated with as a *Free & Independent People*—That Treaty of 1777 & the Hopewell Treaty were less favourable to the Whites, than the late Treaty at Holstein by Govr. Blount, and therefore say many of the Members of Congress the right of the Company's purchase in 1775 was affected by the Treaty of No. Carolina in 1777, and therefore No. C. should settle the affair with the Company, & that the grant from the State to the Coy. in 1783-4 for 200,000 acres of that Land which the State had actually in 1777 guaranteed by Treaty to the Cherokees, could not be a good grant, untill the Indian boundaries was altered by Treaty to include that Land; or untill the State had some better right to it than a Law (of one party only)—

It is true we have no evidence of *consent* on the part of the In-

3 Thomas Person, of Granville, likewise had a state grant of land in the limits of the present State of Tennessee.

4 Nathaniel Macon, M. C. from North Carolina, was the leader of the Republican party in North Carolina and exceedingly influential in Congress.

dians to relinquish any part of the Lands secured to them in 1777— and here we must *insist on the right & Custom of Conquest* after 77, in consequence of a Violation on the part of the Cherokees of that very Treaty of 1777; & urge the Law of No Carolina passed in 1783— for opening the Land office & declaring the Indian boundaries & hunting grounds— as the terms of the Conquerers— that this Law is neither against the Laws of Justice or Nations, that tis only taking into possession & preparing for Cultivation a Territory within the Chartered Limits of the State not actually occupied by Men— & to defray the expenses of the War against the Natives who were leagued with the Common Enemy— that regard & proper attention to the Natives are not neglected in as much as a tract of Country nearly 200 miles by 40 is reserved for them including nearly all their actual places of residence &c &c &c— I cannot here omit saying that in my opinion the State of No. C. had it fully in her power before the Cession to Congress to have put every discussion or argument of this Subject out of the question— That Henderson & Co. did fairly extinguish the Indian claims to the Lands named in the Deeds appears to me clear enough, but whether the titles to these lands could with propriety Vest in them is a question I cant pretend to decide fully— if the title however did not *rest in them*, it surely did in the Community or State of which they were Members or Citizens Viz No. Ca. and they should have been fully & generously compensated for such eminent Service to the Community, and that community should have enjoyed the advantages of the enterprize of their fellow Citizens— but I believe our State declared the purchase of the Coy. Void, and did not pretend to derive any advantage from it— this was perhaps wrong. When our Troops marched into & subdued these Cherokees in 1776, 80 or 81— after they had broken the Treaty of 1777 there might most certainly have been obtained by Consent (*through fear*) some acknowledgment from them, either that they would remain at Peace *under the Protection of N. Carolina*, or that they would agree the line fixed in 1777 should be so far altered as to pay for the expenses of the War with Lands to the West of that line— Nothing of this kind was done on the part of No. C. whilst So. Carolina availed herself of that state of things to

substantiate claims for some of her Western Country— We have to encounter with another great difficulty in ascertaining how and where the several treaty lines run, & those lines in the Compy's deed on Powell & Holstein Rivers to point out the part & probable quantity of Land included in the Cession to the Cherokees at the late Treaty— We have a map of the So. Ws. Territory made by Doer. Williamson⁵ from materials furnished by Genl Smith of Cumberland as tis said, but all persons who know anything of Powell River, Valley & mountains— Holstein, Cloud Creek &c &c assert that the Map is most incorrect as respects that part of the Country in particular— Which you will see is a great misfortune as in that quarter all the Treaty Boundaries & purchases begin— and it is in that country where the Company's 200,000 acres are granted— I think your *grant* or patent should have been forwarded & the Law of the State granting the same— It being private is not in Fredells Revisal which is only lately discovered— the several arguments and objections which I have stated to our claims & rights are only those which in private conversation have been offered, and I mention them to give you some idea of what may be expected in a Public discussion

You may be assured that all the Members from the State will do what they can towards effecting Justice to the Company & all others claiming Lands under the State But between ourselves so great and important a Subject should have very *able, Learned & Eloquent advocates*, this (again between ourselves, as you don't know it—) is Not the case I fear— don't suppose I mean any demerit to the Del - - - n,⁶ I am certain we all mean well, but you

5 Dr. Hugh Williamson, of North Carolina, member of the Philadelphia Convention that framed the Federal Constitution; member of the Congress of the Confederation from 1784 to 1787; member of Congress from 1790 to 1793. Dr. Williamson was a physician, naturalist, and historian. For an extended sketch of this interesting personality see Wheeler's History of North Carolina, II., 91, *et seq.*

6 Delegation from North Carolina in the halls of Congress. Evidently Grove wishes to transfer the burden of the company's interests from the shoulders of the North Carolina delegation to the hands of counsel paid by the company: yet he does not wish it to appear that he is not zealous for his constituents' interests.

know better than I can tell you what one might say *of us all*: a Man may be very capable of judging & forming a tolerable just idea & determination on a subject when he hears all the arguments, takes all the evidence that may be offered, who would make a bad hand of stating & suming up all these arguments with decency— In short one may be an Excellent Jury man, who would be a bad advocate or Lawyer— and a number of reasons seem to impress me with a belief that the subject of our claims are more properly a Judicial question, than a matter of Legislative interference, in the first instance Was there any Court Competent to the Subject—

You shall hear from me as soon as anything is done in this business, & therefore shall proceed to other matters of Congressional deliberation &c —

We have passed a Law for raising the pay of the Militia to 6 2-3 Dollars per Month when called into service I hope & believe there may be few occasions to trouble them— but you recollect there was much uneasiness on this subject last summer in our State.⁷ Some further Amendmants are proposed to the Militia Law— including a proposition of arming those Citizens who are not able to purchase & equip themselves &c— a Bill has passed our House amending the Naturalization Law,⁸ prolonging the time of Residence to 5 years before Aliens can become Citizens and to make Noblemen & others holding titles in Europe renounce such titles before they are admitted to the rights of Citizens— these amendments have been brought forward & advocated under the impression that most of the Emigrants to this Country at this time & perhaps for some time to come, are very highly charged with *one or other* of two political manias— the spirit of *Aristocracy* or of *anarchy*— both have indeed been in some cases evident— but I confess I was not so fully impressed with the Necessity or policy of this Law as seemed to be generally the case with the Members— altho there are & may be some such Characters, I am persuaded the

⁷ Caused by the general opposition to the federal Excise Law, culminating in Pennsylvania in the so-called "Whiskey Rebellion" in 1794, the summer previous to the date of this letter.

⁸ This Amended Naturalization Bill passed into law and was approved January 29, 1795.

good sense of the whole will never give way to their follies, and mad views I feared such a Law might check the spirit of Emigration to this Country, which in my opinion for a Century to come should be encouraged by every reasonable means; I am led to this impression the more strongly by being a Southern Man;⁹ tho many differ with me as to the policy of this Subject—

A very important subject is under consideration as respects the whole community, tis the forming and establishing a Systematick plan by Law for paying off and Sinking the Public debt¹⁰— I think it will be done, & if we remain at peace & our Revenues continue increasing as for 2 years past & Government not extravagant, the whole may be paid in 12 years, by redemption & purchase on the part of Govt. without one penny additional tax— then being out of debt the Government will have no excuse to continue any Revenue Law¹¹ which may be thought impolitic or injurious— I confess myself in favor of applying every nerve of the Govt. towards melting down that Public debt which hangs over us, & which has in many cases been considered as a Colossus of Speculation¹² which had infused itself into the Administration of our Federal Counsils to the dishonour &c. of C - gr— Whether this be true, or not is not in my power to answer but I fear there has been too much reason to found such an opinion on and from my heart as a Man, as a friend to Justice, to the Constitution & the Peace of my Country, I lament it— and the sooner the possibility of such

9 Grove was singularly clear-sighted as to the needs of his own section, though the vision of many of his compatriots had already begun to be obscured by the incubus of slavery.

10 Upon the meeting of the 4th Congress in March, 1795, it was found that the Republicans were in a majority in the lower house, quite a safe one at first. This majority determined upon retrenchment in public finance as a rebuke to the Federalist party. Grove, despite his ardent Federalist principles, sympathized with this purpose of his party opponents and lent it his encouragement. Temporarily defeated, the plan was resumed when Jefferson became president in 1801.

11 A reference to the federal Excise Law, passed by Congress May 8, 1792, and repealed by the Republican Congress in 1802.

12 The assumption of State debts by the federal government during the first Congress gave rise to much speculation in the public securities that to a degree cast discredit upon Hamilton's wise financial policy.

an influence (if it does exist,) is removed the better—and therefore instead of Indian Wars &c Let us pay our Debts—and make a fair start—for so far as I am capable of judging from experience in our own Country, and reading of others—I think a large Public debt the very opposite to a Public Blessing—

I make no doubt you partake in the general anxiety respecting the result of our Demand &c at the Court of St. James,¹³ & at the Silence of the President on that subject he having not laid before either House one Syllable of Mr Jay's Communication—Some here think this amiss in him, but perhaps while the business is in a fair train & nearly completed it might be improper to disclose parts—therefore We are on the top of hope & expectation that all things are well, & like to be better in a little time—before the Sessn. closes we must know everything, or—the public mind will begin to despair—If events in Europe can have any influence on the British Court (& I confess to think they must have important effects) these events seem to favour our Expectations to obtain all our Just demands—

I have seen a letter of the 2d. Nov. from a Merchant of Consequence in London to one of that kind here, which enters into detail of the nature & objects of Negoceation between the British & American Ministers, he says Commissrs. are to be appointed to fix on the Boundary to the No. Es. as fixed in the Treaty viz to determine on the proper River St Croix—that all our Western Forts are to be immediately delivered to us—that Commissrs. are to ascertain the loss of Negroes actually taken by the British during the War & payment made—that all kinds of impediment are to be removed respecting the payment & recovery of old British debts—and that we are to have a free trade to the Ws. Indies for Vessels of or under 120 tons—altho all these things are probable, politic, & just as respects both Nations, remember tis Merchants News—

¹³ John Jay, of New York, had been sent to England in May 1794 to negotiate a treaty of commerce with that country and to settle all outstanding differences left over from the Peace of Paris in 1783. As is well known, the treaty when finally effected was entirely unsatisfactory to the bulk of opinion in this country, yet the Federalist party, in an extra session of the Senate, was strong enough to force its ratification despite the storm of protest throughout the country.

that I may have the pleasure of Confirming it all & more from official information before the 3 of March is my Sincere prayer— That Prusia has solicited and obtained Peace with the French Republic¹⁴ is Confermed from all quarters— that Spain & Germany are Negotiating to that end with the French is also most certain— that the States of Holland are Willing & must accept any terms is evident for the French are nearly in Possession of their Whole Country— The French begin to treat the Conquered People with the strictest Justice & respect, & propose to grant the request of the States of Holland, upon their, *in every respect* detaching themselves from England & its interest— Indeed it seems to be the whole bent of the Convention & Nation of France to establish the *River Rhine* as the extent and boundary of the Republic & to have Peace with all the World but their old Rival and Enemy Gr Britain, who it seems they are Resolved to have one fair Campaign with, perhaps with a view of paying that *Nation in coin*, as to dictating a Form of Government for them— What the consequences and results of all these transactions will come to the L^d only knows— but I hope the Spirit of Moderation & humanity which seems at present predominant in the Convention may bring about a Speedy & glorious Peace to the advantage of the real liberty & happiness of Mankind, in those Nations more particularly where the reverse has been too prevalent.

That the French meditate some attack on G. B. and the Ws. Indies seems the more probable, from the circumstance, that the Paris papers say the Govt. are aware that too many of their Vast armies should not be discharged at once & brought into the Body of the Nation, before all things on a firm & proper basis are formed on a Constitution & Laws &c. and therefore to humble the pride &c &c of the British Court may be a proper object of Employment

14 The Republic of France, established September 2, 1792, was now rapidly moving along that aggressive course which was to lead the nation into conflict with all Europe and was finally to culminate in Waterloo, 1815. All public men in America were profoundly interested in European affairs during all this period, and especially in that the influences of the European conflict created the largest political problems of the young American Republic during its first quarter century of life.

of a half a million or so of their brave *Sans Culottes*¹⁵— This may prove an obstinate and Vexatious Job to them for altho John Bull has been shamefully treated in this War, & much of his treasure exhausted yet if all his family & Connections unite and make War their object without regard to Commerce as the French have done, they would make a formidable and dredfull resistance—

For my own part I dont think tis the real Intert. of America that the Navy of Gr. Britain should be so formadable as it is, for it makes them very arrogant & dictatorial to People they have no business with, & therefore I wish *that part* of their force lessened—

Yet remember I should not like even our friends the French, to have a Very decided Superiority on the ocean to all other Nations in War Ships, and therefore I believe it would not be amiss for them to distroy each others Floating War Machines down to a moderate number— the Peace, Happiness, & Expenses of their own People would be bettered by such an event— and the Americans would have less to fear of either, of their future ambition or mad projects—

I now thank you for your favr. of the 2d. Jany from Hillsboro— the former part of this letter answers it so far as respects the Land business.

I assure you I feel much obliged for the acct. you gave me of the affair between Bob & [*One word illc. ble*] by same post that brt. your last. Mr Taylor¹⁶ from Raleigh just mentioned something of the affair, in a slight & hasty manner, which would have made me very uneasy but for your letter, giving a full account of the cause & manner of Bob's attack on his old tutor;¹⁷ however from your information of the business I approve of Bob's conduct, only that he did not I fear give the Fellow a sufficient drubbing—

15 A name of reproach and ridicule conferred by the French aristocrats upon those belonging to the extreme republican party, the members of which had rejected short breeches, as an article of dress peculiar to the upper classes.

16 John Louis Taylor, of Fayetteville, Grove's home, is very probably meant here. He was a member of the State Commons in 1792, 1793, 1794; in 1798 he was elected a judge of the Superior Court, and in 1818 a judge of the Supreme Court.

17 I have been unable to determine who was Bob or his tutor.

for surely there could not have been in my mind a Baser, more brutal, unmanly behaviour than your account of [*One word illegible*] conduct—to be sure the Fellow is lost to every sense of Decency and I hope all who have any pretensions to it will treat him accordingly—

I ask pardon for this Long letter, when I sit down to write or taulk to you, I generally forget how the time passes until *the Bell rings*— Be so good as remember me with respectful compliments to all my Female friends & acquaintances in Hillsboro; and say to any of my acquaintances among the Gentlemen that I should be glad to hear from them—

Pray how does Mr. Ker¹⁸ go on at Chapel Hill and is things like to do well there; the more I think of that Seminary & the State of our Country I mean No. C.— the more anxious I am for its success— our Country wants Men of literature more than any other *want* on earth—

Morse's Book¹⁹ has injured the reputation of our State extremely, by his false, infamous account of the Country & its inhabitants— the Book being the first of its kind published in America since the Revolution was bought with avidity by Europeans, & has undergone a French & German Edition— Dr. Williamson proposes writing the History²⁰ of the State & I have Subd for 3 Copies, he is a man of such prejudices that I fear all that time which he has acted *so conspicuous a part* in the State— which is from his first coming into it, that the Book will not be much prized— however the early part of the History will probably be correct, for he has great industry in procuring materials— some say he furnished Morse with some of the most objectional parts of his acct. of the

18 Dr. David Ker, first professor and also, as Presiding Professor, the first executive of the University of North Carolina which institution had just been opened Jan. 15, 1795, six days before the date of Grove's letter.

19 American Universal Geography, by Jedidiah Morse, D. D. This book reached its fifth edition in 1812, being published in that year by Thomas and Andrews, Boston, Mass.

20 Williamson's History of North Carolina appeared in 1812. Grove proved to be singularly correct in his estimate of the probable value of Williamson's work, parts of it being of unusual value, due in the main to the author's indefatigability in the collection of material.

State, if I thought so I would despise him—

Carey is now publishing a Geography of the Un States, and I have got him to expunge all Morse's libels— and Gov. Martin²¹ has written several little additions to the acct. of the State, that in some measure may commence a refutation of that illiberal and ignorant authors Book— (Morse's)— I have taken care that our Town & Wilmington should not be unnoticed— as respects their Trade &c &c

I intended to bid you Adieu two sheets ago but finding myself entering on the last side of the fifth sheet & 20th. page— I feel compassion for your Patience and bid you Farewell, with a confidence that he who writes or taulks much must be troublesome to his friends— pray then forgive all the Superfluous of this letter and

believe me
with esteem
your friend
& very Hum. Ser.
W B Grove

To James Hogg

Phila. June 24th. 1797

Dear Sir

Mr Rich & Mr McDonald the Commissioners on the part of G Britain arrived in May, & met Colo Innis¹ & Mr. Fitzsimmons the Commissrs. on the part of the U States for adjusting the Business of the old British debts agreeably to Treaty, a Mr Guilnard was nominated by the British for the 5th Com-

²¹ Alexander Martin of Guilford, elected governor of North Carolina in 1782 and again in 1789; member of Philadelphia Constitutional Convention, 1787, and United States Senator 1793-1799.

¹ Colonel Henry Innis of Virginia, afterward federal District Judge in Kentucky before whom was had the Frankfort hearing of Aaron Burr just before the latter's conspiracy was uncovered in 1806.

missr., & Mr Ames² on the part of the U States; the Lot fell on the former; they have formed a Board and are ready to enter on the subject of their appointment, as you will see by their notice in the Ns papers; No Business has been yet brought before them, & Mr Innis with whom I am in habits of intimacy, tells me they have agreed on no particular principles yet, as to the mode & manner of establishing claims; He is opinion all claims must have gone through the Courts of Law before they can be entered on, by Commissioners, who he thinks have not by the Treaty Original Jurisdiction, this however he fears is a point to be contended, and should it be settled in such a way as to extend the powers of the Commissn., from whose decision there is no appeal he expresses an apprehension that considerable sums may be awarded against the U States, which were not intended by the Treaty to be covered.

Mr Innis says he finds a disposition on the part of some of the Gentlemen to make this place the permanent Seat of the Board, but that he shall urge a removal to the South in the fall: agents will be appointed to attend to the interests of the U States, to obtain testimony & prevent frauds & Collusions &c— A report was some time ago in circulation that the Commissn. in London for adjusting claims for Spoilations had refused to proceed, it seems this is not so; the Court of Appeals had indeed adjourned, which might retard the decisions of the Commiss. for a short time. I suppose tis not improbable but the failure of the Federal Court in N. C.³ may have a like tendency— I regret really that our State has been so unfortunate in failures of this kind, which must increase the dissatisfaction of many, & bring those Courts into disrepute.—

Our affairs with France wear's a gloomy aspect, and yet many

2 Fisher Ames of Massachusetts, ardent Federalist, member of Congress from his State, famous political orator, one of his best known speeches being that in defense of the Jay Treaty made April 28, 1796, two weeks after the Senate had ratified that document.

3 A quorum of the Judges of the Circuit Court for the District of North Carolina did not attend for the June term, 1797, hence there was no court. This made necessary a congressional act, approved July 5, 1797, for reviewing and continuing suits and processes. See *Annals of Congress*, 5th Cong., 1797-1799. Vol. III., 3692. *Acts of Cong.*

have hopes that matters will be more amicably adjusted by our new mission of Envoys⁴ Extraory.; I most fervently hope it may be so, and for the sake of the *Peace & happiness of our Country* We should suppress the honest indignation excited by their *injuries & insults*,⁵ provided they adjust matters with Justice & liberality— I can not omit saying what I firmly believe, that many among us have been induced to justify the French more from the enthusiasm we felt at the blaze of their Successes, than from any candid investigation which can be made into their Conduct towards the United States— I suspect those⁶ in our own Country who blame the American Government for pursuing measures calculated to maintain the Neutrality of the Country, *have themselves been neutral*, and therefore blame the Constituted authorities because their acts did not go the *length of their mad Views*— While we rejoice at the prospect of a great Nation obtaining rational Liberty, we ought not to forget the Duty & respect we owe to our own rights & Country.

Congress will rise in seven or eight days, without doing any thing more of Consequence than taking some preparatory steps for Defence in case of the worst.

The Spanish Government has refused to run the line from the Mississippi agreeably to Treaty⁷ and offer some very flimsy pre-

4 This was Adams' first mission to France, composed of Charles Pinckney, John Marshall, and Elbridge Gerry, the treatment of whom by France resulted in the famous X.Y.Z. affair.

5 France was in a deadly grapple with England and resented America's policy of neutrality. Her minister, Fanchet, accused the American government of the violation and inexecution of treaties, one of which, made in 1778, he regarded as an offensive and defensive alliance; the other of amity, navigation, and commerce under which France claimed the right of bringing prizes into United States ports, and of fitting out ships against her enemies, all of which the American government opposed.

6 Grove's complaint here is directed against the Republican party, whose sympathies were pro-French. The Federalists' sympathies were with the English in the great international conflict. In case the policy of neutrality was abandoned the Republicans wished to fight England, while the Federalists wished to fight France.

7 In 1796 the United States had affected a treaty with Spain by which the Mississippi River was to be opened, New Orleans made a port of deposit for three years, and the thirty-first degree of latitude agreed upon as part of the southern boundary of the United States. But in 1797 this excellent treaty

tences for this Conduct, but it is pretty well understood that French influence is the real cause, & it is said the Florida's & Louisiana⁸ is to be relenquished to the Republic; perhaps Canada may also fall into their hands— If so I fear from their power and *ambition*, they may become troublesome neighbors to this Country.

The Empiror has certainly been driven into a separate Peace in consequence of the wonderful victories of the French armies, the terms have been dictated by Buonaparte⁹ under the direction of the Directory; a Congress is to be held at Basle¹⁰ at which some of the German *Princes* & G. Britain are to be permitted to send *Negotiators* to effect a general Peace; in the mean time it seems from French papers the Republic are resolved to annihilate the British Government & destroy her Naval power if she can—

If these things are effected it must have great and important consequences on the affairs of Europe and the Commercial Wourld, and I am not persuaded but it would have an unhappy influence on the affairs of our own Country; for either France, or G Britain to have such a Complete power over the other, would destroy rivalry which has at times prevented both nations from overrunning the rights of others.

Be so good as remember me to all friends & believe to be with esteem
D Sir

Your Hum Sert.

W. B. GROVE

seemed for a time likely to fail. Spain had taken offense at the Jay Treaty with England and refused for a time to run out the boundary line which separated her possessions from those of the United States.

8 West Florida and Louisiana were both possessions of Spain at this date. Louisiana was ceded by Spain to Napoleon at the secret treaty of San Ildefonso, 1800.

9 These terms were not actually signed between Emperor Francis II and Bonaparte until October 17, 1797. It was the treaty of Campo Formio dictated by Bonaparte to Francis, one hundred miles from Vienna and after his wonderful victories in northern Italy. By it the Emperor agreed to the extension of France over the Netherlands and the Rhenish Provinces, and the virtual annexation of Lombardy, Modena, and the Papal States, while Austria was allowed to take over the ancient Republic of Venice.

10 This Congress actually met at Rastadt, November, 1797, but did noth-

To James Hogg.

Philadelphia Decem. 18. 1797

Dear Sir

I wrote you a few lines sometime ago and expect shortly to have the pleasure of an answer, In the mean time tis proper I should give you some information on the subject of your Money put into my Hands to be vested in some public fund here— In the first place the Gold when weighed at the Bank amounted to \$807.37— of course you lost \$2.64— as the sum you gave me was \$810.1— but had not the enclosed moidore (contained in parcel No 1—) proved base, your money would have over run your calculation— It was cut at the bank.— This money I deposited in the Bank on the 18th. Nov.— and have since Deposited the \$500 you gave me in paper.

I mentioned to you that Mr Steele^a & others had advised the purchase of *Bank Stock*, Viz Bank Shares, in preference to 6 p Ct. Stock as less liable to fluctuation or depreciation— Bank Stock is above par, & the other something below, but on further enquiries into the subject I dont perceive so much difference in their *actual Value* as I at first apprehended— for instance a Bank Share say \$400 sells at 23 to 25 *pr Ct. advance*, and the Dividend on this is generally 7 p Ct. to 8 p Ct. half yearly— 6 p Ct. Stock is about 17 having had 2 years of the original principal of 2 p Ct. on each \$100 paid agreeably to Law, and the redemption continues to go on at that rate quarter yearly until the whole debt shall be redeemed— this *redemable quality* in the Debt of the U. States, lessens its value with *Stock Jobbers*. But tis an admirable plan for the public to get rid of the Debt— and should not be deviated from under *No Circumstances*; but in case of War or any great pub-

ing beyond the ratification of the secret articles of the treaty of Campo Formio. England was not represented and continued the war against France.

1 John Steele, of Salisbury, N. C., Comptroller of the United States Treasury under Washington's and Adams' administrations, and for two years under Jefferson. He resigned his post in the fall of 1802.

lic disturbance, this redemption of principal as well as payment of interest *might be delayed*; but I hope & trust neither will happen, notwithstanding the gloomy prospect of things for some time past as regards our affairs with France. I have advised also with Mr John Storey,² the friend of Mr Jno Hogg,³ who I shall get to do the necessary Business as regards the purchase of the Stock &c. which I shall attend to, so as to see the proper transfer made—

The reason why nothing has been yet done, is, that it being so near the end of the *year*, & *quarter* Mr S. thinks it best to purchase so as to commence from the first of Jany., and he is now casting about for a sum to or near the amt of Cash, I hope ere long to give you further accounts, and I am now the more particular to afford you a better idea of these matters than perhaps you may have had before. —

We have had more harmony in Congress than usual, & I hope a Continuance of it, tho' there has been very little yet before us of a nature to Excite the Spirit of Party—I send you the Report of our Committee of last Sessn. & the Documents relative to Blounts Conspiracy⁴— you will perceive Mr Liston⁵ gave more Countenance to the Scheme. than had been apprehended, and I would not be surprised if the President should request his recall; it would gratify many who think Mr L. has had more to do in the Business than has ever appeared, & it would silence those who wish to make a Charge of partiality against the Government— You will also discover an attempt to insinuate that the Sectry. of State⁶ was desir-

2 Probably a stock broker of Philadelphia.

3 Cousin of James Hogg. John Hogg was a merchant, doing business in both Fayetteville and Wilmington and residing in the main in the latter town.

4 William Blount, first United States Senator from Tennessee, impeached before the bar of the Senate and expelled for exciting the Indians and Tennessee and Kentucky adventurers to make hostile incursions against Spanish territory.

5 Robert Liston, minister to the United States from Great Britain, was included in the plan to make war on the Spanish Floridas. It was for co-operation with this English scheme of wresting the Floridas from Spain that Wm. Blount was impeached.

6 Timothy Pickering, Secretary of State under Adams.

ous to screen the British Minister— I suspect the insinuation proceeded from Malice, or a misunderstanding of Eatons⁷ information to Ripley.

Our Envoys⁸ are at Paris, but We yet know nothing of their prospects; I need not tell you that We are *all anxiety on this Subject*. As the *result of their Mission* I apprehend must have an important influence on the affairs of this Country, I earnestly hope it may be favourable to *Reason & Justice*.

There is some flying Report that French Garrisons are in some or all of the Ports on the Mississippi I hope tis not true nor never may be; they are too Powerful and Ambitious to be *honest* and *Just* Neighbors.⁹

Few arrivals latterly from Europe, but what have long passages; but information has got here from several quarters that Admrl. Duncan¹⁰ had a most severe action the 12th. Oct. with the Dutch Fleet— 8 or 9 of the Dutch line of Battle Ships are taken and some of the British Vessels nearly disabled—

It was expected that 3 years after the Mint began to Coin, there would be a Sufficiency of the Silver Coins of the Ud. States in circulation,¹¹ to admit the calling in such silver Coins as are supposed to have more alloy than is proper, but it is proved to be otherwise, & the time admitting those coins to circulate will be prolonged, as well as for gold coins —

7 Probably General William Eaton, a captain at this date on the Seminole frontier in Georgia, later, in Jefferson's administration the real hero of the Tripolitan war.

8 Pinckney, Marshall, and Gerry. Grove's fears were fully realized a little later in the N.Y.Z. explosion.

9 The general American dread of France as a neighbor on our southwestern border accounts for Jefferson's disregard of constitutional scruples and his hasty purchase of the Louisiana territory in 1803 after it had been transferred by Spain to France in 1800.

10 Admiral Duncan, of the English navy, defeated the Dutch fleet off Camperdown, on the coast of Holland, Oct., 11, 1797. The Dutch were allied with the French.

11 An act of Congress in 1793 had provided that, three years from the day, on which the first silver coin and again three years from the day on which the first gold coin was struck at the mint, gold and silver bearing the stamp of foreign powers should, save Spanish milled dollars and parts thereof,

The Stamp tax¹² will not go into operation until 1st July—I hope we shall alter and amend the Excise Law¹³ so as to remove your objections, in part, at least—by permitting the Distillers to enter for *one week*, at any time through the year, and from Week to Week as they may think proper—

I will thank you to remember me to my friends Mr & Mrs Estes and inform them, I mean to write Mr Estes soon—I suppose they have heard of my Brother Robert Rowan¹⁴ affliction with the Rheumatism.

When he arrived at New York from the Lakes he was as helpless as a Child, he could neither use hands or legs—I Visited him immediately on hearing of his situation, & am happy to say he was much better before he left New York for Wilmington, & that the Medical Men say they have no doubt but that the warm climate, warm bath & Electricity will soon restore him—Be pleased to offer my respects to your family & be assured I am Dear Sir, with Esteem

yr. Hum Ser.

W B GROVE

cease to be legal tender. In 1797 when the three years had expired it was found that the U. S. mint had not supplied a sufficient coinage, hence the time had to be extended.

12 In anticipation of war with France the Federal Congress in 1797 passed a stamp act that required a revenue stamp on such documents as insurance policies, merchants' bonds, promissory notes, bills of exchange, law licenses, and many other documents. It fell under severe criticism of the Republican party in Congress and was repealed in 1802.

13 This was the Excise Law of 1791 against which the Pennsylvania distillers rose in 1794; repealed during Jefferson's first term, but reimposed in Madison's administration under pressure of expense of war with England.

14 Half-brother of Grove. Grove's mother, as a widow, married Robert Rowan, of Fayetteville, who gave the name Rowan Street in that town. The elder Rowan was a member of the General Assembly from Cumberland county in 1778, 1779, 1785. A daughter, Susan Rowan, became the first wife of Dr. Joseph Caldwell, first president of the University of North Carolina.

To James Hogg.

Phila. Jan'y 18h. 1798

Dear Sir

I some time ago directed Clement Biddle, Broker, to purchase Stock of the U. States to the amount of your money say *Sixteen hundred & Seven Dollars & 37 cents*, & by mistake he has omitted to invest 7 Dollars 37 cents— I now send you enclosed a Regisl. Certificate being the evidence of the sum standing on the Books of the Treasury of the U. States to your credit, the interest, and reimbursement of 2 p Ct. thereof, can only be drawn by your atty for that purpose.

Mr. Biddle's acct. if inclosed by which you will see the real state & nature of your Stock, leaving in my hands 7 Dolls. & 37 Cents subject to your order, or to be added to any other sum you may choose to invest in this way —

In reply to your enquiries how monies can be got from our Country to this place, I can give you no information unless you can meet with Bank notes.

I have made some enquiries about the Value and probability of selling your Lands in Tennessee & Kentucky within Henderson grants¹; I am told these Lands must become Valuable, but at present not more than half a Dollr. could be had for the Kentucky Land, & the Value of Powels Valley will depend on the extinguishment of the Indian claims, and this event is likely to take place shortly, as the President has nominated Mr Ad. Moore² of N. C. Bushrod Washington³ of Virga. & Fisher Ames,⁴ to hold a Treaty with the Cherokees under hope that they may be prevailed

1 The Transylvania Land Company, explained in an earlier note.

2 Alfred Moore, senior, of Brunswick, N. C., Attorney General of North Carolina, 1790-1798; Superior Court Judge 1798-1799; Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court 1799-1805; resigned on account of ill health, and died Oct., 15, 1810.

3 Relative of President Washington, member of Congress from Virginia, appointed by Adams an Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court.

4 Fisher Ames, of Massachusetts, noted earlier.

on to sell & relinquish some of their Lands to which the white People have legal claims under N. Carolina, and I am induced to think tis probable, that part of the Country where your Lands are situated is the most likely to be given up by the Indians —

I hope Mr Moore may be prevailed on to accept and act in this Business; there are very considerable interest in No. Carolina depending on this matter, & indeed the Peace of the Country is in some measure at stake, for the honest claimants will never be at ease until they see a fair attempt made on the part of the U. States to obtain those Lands from the Indians, & the weight & respectability of the Commissioners will go far in *satisfying good Men* let the result be as it may — I wish the frauds⁵ lately discovered at Raleigh may not have a bad effect in this Business, I assure every Body here, the *State will sift the matter to the bottom* and not permit any of those fraudulent claims to prevail — yet it may create doubt &c &c

In haste I am

D Sir your Hum Sert

W. B. GROVE

To James Hogg.

Phila. Jany 18th. 1798

Dear Sir

By this mail, & of this date, I have sent you a letter covering a Certift. of the Six p Ct. Stock which was purchased with *Sixteen hundred* Dollars Cash at 16/10d in the pound— I hope that letter & its enclosures may arrive safe— you must have an atty or agent here to convert *your interest & dividend of reimbursement*, as it becomes due at the end of each quarter into New Capital by this means it has the effect of Compound inters—

⁵ Certain frauds in the Land Office at Raleigh under Glasgow. Glasgow was removed from office in latter part of 1797 and a commission appointed to sift the whole matter.

The Commissrs.¹ on British debts have done nothing *decisive yet*, as Mr Fitzsimmons tells me; they have been delayed by their Colleague Colo Innis of Virga. who has been very ill; they have however been preparing Business and will probably soon proceed to fix on *principles* after that is done they will make pretty short work of such claims as may be brought before them— and I fear they will bring *us* in deeper than was expected— this will certainly be the case if it is determined to take up any Business that has not gone through a Court.

I am amazed you have not urged your Brothers Creditors² forward before now; If I have rightly understood the situation of that Concern, they have claims for legal impediments if any in America have-- In my letter, of to-day I have told you what had been done towards satisfying the No. Carolina land holders in Tennessee;³ I hope the result of it may be favourable to all sides and that Mr. Moore may agree to act as one of the Commissioners— I think it would be but *Justice* that some of the gentry lately taken in committing frauds⁴ should grace Gallows Hill— Nothing but hemp will keep such fellows from preying on the honest part of the World I apprehend as long as they live --

I am both ashamed & chagrined at the Conduct of my old friend Genl. Willis;⁵ I told him [*Words illegible*] delicate terms as I

1 Mr. Rich. Mr. McDonald, and Mr. Guilmard on the part of Great Britain and Mr. Innis and Mr. Fitzsimmons on the part of the United States.

2 James Hogg and his cousin, John, were members of a mercantile firm doing business in Wilmington and Fayetteville and had suffered certain losses at the hands of the British during the Revolution. They were now looking to the commission for an adjustment.

3 Congress had lately appointed a commission consisting of Bushrod Washington of Virginia, Fisher Ames of Massachusetts and Alfred Moore of North Carolina to undertake a negotiation with the Cherokee Indians with a view extinguishing their claims to lands in Tennessee that had been granted by North Carolina before the cession of Tennessee to the federal government.

4 The frauds in the land office, mentioned in a former letter and explained in note.

5 I am unable to determine who General Willis was, or the import of this reference. It may have been John Willis of Robeson county, member of State Senate, 1787-1791, and member of the Commons 1794 and 1795; also a trustee of the State University from 1795 to 1801.

could that he was [*Words illegible*] the first, but I had no conception he would have bottomed his opposition in the manner and on the grounds his Petition held forth; it seemed to be the mere effusion of Violent Passion directed against a whole People.

With best regards

I am Dear Sir

your Very Hum Ser.

W. B. GROVE

To James Hogg.

Phila. Feby 14h. 1798

Dear Sir

I have latterly had such a host of letters to answer from different parts of the State, that I postponed writing you immediately after the recd. of yours of the 18 Jany covering a line for Mr Storey:¹ I am now to acknowledge that letter, also yours of the 26 same month enclosing the unfortunate Generals *paper War*, from which it appears he so exposed *his lines* as to suffer the Enemy to break through them & *cover him with disgrace*.

I can assure you I have felt not a little Chagrined at the whole of this affair— With you, and many others I entertained a good opinion of Genl. Willis, and indeed had a regard for him beyond common friendship, and as I was confident he knew it, I took the liberty of prevailing on him not to Contest the Election of his opponent, and said more to him on that head than I would to most of my acquaintances; but he was Resolved, little did I expect he could or would have gone on the ground he has taken— I have written my mind to him pretty freely—

Mr Storey will write you in answer to your letter to him, and says he will attend to your Business, rest assured that I shall at all times aid him, in any of your desires as to Matters here, with pleasure.

1 A Philadelphia stock broker, referred to in letter of date Dec., 18, 1767.

I hope the Certif. of your Stock has reached you in Safety, and that you are not dissatisfied with what I done, tho' I perceive that 6pC have fallen to 16/8d.

I should advise you still to lay out your money in Bank Stock, a Share originally was 400 Doll. they are over par from 20 to 22 pC— so one share costs \$480. to 488— any Surplus over the price of a Share to be laid out in 8 pCt.— so you will have all your money *Vested*; and in case of any uproar, war &c. your Bank Shares are safest— tho' I am of opinion all the funds are secure, yet they may not be so in the public estimation— this is said to be a fine time to purchase as the uncertainty of affairs have a greater effect on the *Stocks* than the risk warrants —

As I wrote you fully on this subject before, I need add nothing more; I also asked you the price of your Kentucky Lands &c &c., this however is a bad Market I am told for new Lands, yet I might fall in with some person inclined to purchase if I could say at what price you held them.

Pray will Mr Moore accept the appoint. of Commissioner to treat with the Indians, it is considered of importance here, that something should be done If Possible to obtain those Lands from the Cherokees— The Executive is fully of this opinion, & therefore he made so *weighty* an appointment as Moore, Washington and Ames. In consequence of the Death of Genl Skinner the Commissr.² of Loans, our Senators³ & Mr Steele,⁴ recommended Colo Rowan⁵ to fill that office, and the President has nomenated him, he will I suppose be concurred with by the Senate— & the office will be kept at Fayette Ville —

2 Joshua Skinner, of Perquimans county, appointed commissioner of loans by President Washington; was member of State Senate 1790-1794.

3 Timothy Bloodworth, of New Hanover, and Alexander Martin of Guilford, both Republicans. Bloodworth succeeded Benjamin Hawkins, Federalist, in 1795, and Martin succeeded Samuel Johnston, Federalist, 1793.

4 General John Steele, of Salisbury, comptroller of the U. S. Treasury under Washington, Adams, and through a part of Jefferson's first term; was influential in the distribution of federal patronage in North Carolina.

5 Robert Rowan, of Fayetteville; Revolutionary patriot; first signer of the "Cumberland Association," June 20, 1775, formed for the purpose of resistance to Britain; frequently a member of the State legislature from the Revolution to 1785.

No accounts from our Envoys in France that are official— some late news state that 3 Commissrs. are named to adjust differences with them at Paris, bad news is apt to *travel fast*, or I should have no hopes left, as things are, I have *yet some hopes*⁶ —

We have been shamefully perplexed with a Dirty matter committed in Congress Hall, by one of the members on the Person of another,⁷ on the outside of the Bar of the House — you read the papers & need say nothing of it, as those Vehicles of Scandal are filled with it, to our Shame — It may not be amiss to say *Lyon spit in the face of Mr Griswold*, & we could not expel him for this *dirty assault* — 64 Votes made 2-3d. & 52 only Voted for his Expulsion, 44 against it— As an example I wish he had been Expelled, it is proper to deal with severity against those who shall dare to Violate the Sanctuary of a Deliberative assembly.

I want to say a great deal more to you, but at present have not time — Remember me to all friends, and be assured I am

D Sir

with regard & esteem

y Hum Ser

W B GROVE

The Snow is 6 inches deep
& the river again fast —

6 See Note 4, letter of date June 24, 1797.

7 Matthew Lyon, member of Congress from Vermont, rabid Republican and very much hated by the Federalists, made an attack on the floor of the House upon another member, Roger Griswold of Connecticut. The House failed to expel him, though he was later tried under the Sedition Act for the publication of a letter in a Vermont paper severely criticising the government for its "ridiculous pomp, foolish adulation, and selfish avarice." He was fined \$1000 and sent to prison for four months. His friends got up a petition for his pardon, but as he refused to sign it, the President refused to pardon him. But he was triumphantly re-elected to Congress while still in prison.

To James Hogg.

Phila. March 23d 1798

Dear Sir

My Correspondents have so increased latterly, which in addition to my duty, in these unpleasant times, to extend my Communications to my Constituents, has prevented me from writing to you for sometime past — your favour of the 21st ult. came to hand a few days ago, and afforded me pleasure to hear you were well, and that my letter covering the Certif. of your Stock had reached you in safety — I perceive the Value of Stocks are affected by the very unpleasant state of affairs with France — this is to be expected in any Country, but especially in a young Country like ours, where Capitals are invited into a thousand other Channels — I cannot think however things can ever become so desperate among us as to induce a departure from the plighted faith of the Govert. — It may be Possible the redemption of the 2 p C. Capital may be diverted to more pressing objects — I say thus much to you as I presume you may feel some anxiety on this score — for myself I feel none, having never had one penny of Funded debt, or Bank stock in my Life — this has been owing to *a thousand reasons*, but *one of them* alone was sufficient — viz I had it never in my Power or inclination to purchase —

To you it is unnecessary to go into detail on the state of our affairs with France,¹ you can & have investigated with coolness and candour the unremitted Solicitude of the Govert. of the United States to maintain Peace & amity with the French, while they have been trying how far they can insult Plunder & degrade us, because we were not disposed to make our Country a Tool to their Views & ambitions — I have on every occasion from the present Revolution in France felt and expressed the most sincere hope that

1 The X.Y.Z. disclosures had reached Philadelphia March 5, and left Adams' government sorely perpled and offended. Grove, as an ardent Federalist, shared the sentiments of that party relative to that course of America's relations with France. In this letter he is adroitly using the insult from France to justify to his constituents his well known anti-French attitude.

the event might terminate speedily in a Government calculated to make them a Free & Happy People — and while I lamented & Shuddered at many of the transactions of that Country, I still hoped and believed for a long time, that each of those horrid events, would be the last act of Disgrace & Tyranny that should be committed under “Fair Liberty’s sacred name” — But alas! how silly have I been as well as thousands of others on this Subject —

Ambition, avarice, & Bloody Revenge seems now to be the order of the Day among the Rulers of France, and these, they seem to deal out to the Nations around as if they meant to destroy the World — Even the Peaceful and unoffending Americans must partake of their overflowing Wrath — our increasing Wealth & happiness has become painful to them — and as we were once their allies they seem disposed to treat us, as they have their own Country, & reduce us to a State of Poverty, & wretchedness — as they have Holland —

With all my attachment to the Cause of the French, let me here avow what I defy the World to deny, *that my Love, Veneration & Duty to my own Country* was never *shaken*, by the blaze of French Victories, or any other Circumstance on earth — and I can look back with pleasure to every Vote I gave from the days of Genet² to the present moment, and console myself that those votes have been in support of our own Govt. and the genuine principles of Neutrality that was adopted. — even in 1794 when British Depred. had agitated & inflamed all our Minds, I had the good fortune to be on the Side of Moderation and Negotiation, tho it was then called a Pussillanimous measure by men who now are as gentle as Lambs in the Case of France who have denied to Negotiate with us, altho We have made two attempts.

I have taken the liberty to write of myself thus freely to you, to whom I am in some degree accountable as a friend, and my constituent. —

The Presidents last Message on the 19th. March exorting us to

2 Edmond Charles Genet, first minister of the French Republic to the United States, arrived in 1793. Genet insisted upon disregarding American neutrality between England and France; treated President Washington in a very boorish manner and finally forced the government to request his recall.

take vigorous measures for the Defense of the Country & Commerce of the Nation in case of the worst, is called here a *Declaration of War* & is highly Censured by those who have generally opposed every measure of the Admishn. since the Present War has commenced in Europe — While General Washington was President, the same opposition existed as does now, for Mr Adams has adopted and avowed he will pursue the same line of Conduct & Principles — But let it be remembered that Mr Adams Character however irreproachable it certainly is, does not carry with it that Confidence & Veneration which was entertained for Genl. Washington's, particularly in the Southern Country — It is therefore of the utmost importance at a time like the present, that all men who regard the *Honour & interests* of the Country, should come out Boldly & plainly to Inculcate union, & *Confidence* in the Government.

I mean that union of Sentiment whereby every Man pledges himself to stand by his Country and support the National Political institutions thereof, which secures to all in the Community Life, Liberty, & Property — and that Honest Confidence, which examines and appreciates with Candour the acts of Public Men & measures. — It is said and believed by some, that the French have been taught to consider us to the Southward as *Devoted to their Will*, and from a persuasion of this kind they expect to Divide Distract and Govern us — the Idea is as false as tis Degrading to our Country, and I feel Confidit. If it should be ever Necessary to Defend and Protect ourselves against an Invading Enemy,³ the People to the South will to a man repel the Foe, whether he comes under the name of a British, or Spanish Monarchy or a French Republic — I have written fully to many of my friends in N. C. on this subject, and I can not help adding that I hope a true American Spirit of attachment and regard for our Government may evidence itself among the People, and that they may set a noble example of *Self-respect, and Veneration* for the Constituted authorities of their Country — If they do not, We may become the

3 Grove is anticipating war with France, a thing narrowly averted by President Adams' second mission to France in February, 1799. Indeed naval war had already begun.

Sport of Foreign intrigues, and intestine Broils — and the Fate of Poland may be our Lot — If so, it were better our Ancestors had never found this New Wourld —

Remember me to all friends, & Be assured I am

Dear Sir

Your friend

& Humble Sert.

W. B. GROVE

To James Hogg.

Phila. May 29th 1798

Dear Sir

I am now to acknowledge the receipt of your several favors of the 17h. April, 2d. & 16th. May from Fayette Ville—in reply to the former I can assure you [*One word illegible*] glad to find the affairs of our University are getting forward so cleverly — the Friends & promoters of that Institution are the real Patriots of No. Carolina.¹

I can not but feel much satisfaction in the account I receive from Various parts of the State, that it is likely our representation² in Congress will be more respectable for Talents & proper qualifications for such a Situation — I can not help thinking that one of the greatest causes of the loss of Confidence of many in the Federal government arises from that Source — How in the name of God is any Government to act wisely, or remain Reputable in the eyes

1 Grove was a member of the Board of Trustees for the University from 1789 to 1818; his correspondent, James Hogg, was a trustee from 1789 to 1802. Both were deeply interested in its fortunes.

2 At the date Grove writes he was the only Federalist in Congress from North Carolina. The French war scare and the popularity the government derived from its prompt resentment of France's course in the X.Y.Z. affair caused North Carolina to return four Federalists in 1799, these being Grove, Archibald Henderson, Wm. H. Hill, and Joseph Dixon. North Carolina had ten representatives in all at this date.

of a Jealous & discerning People, If they themselves appoint Men totally incapable of thinking or acting on the great affairs of a great Nation — permit me my good Sir, to say, what I do, with sincere regret. I lament there are too many of this description in the Counsils of our Country, who are more the Representatives of Prejudice and illiberal Suspicion, than of the true interests and sound policy of the U States. I will add what I am sure you and every reflecting Man in your District already knows full well, that *your member*³ is not among the *most enlightened*, of the *most ignorant*; — and to learn that he is likely to have a majority of the Suffrages of so Respectable a District again is certainly a singular thing, unless indeed you are Resolved to Satirize Congress as some suggest.

Let me here assure you I am not actuated by Personal feelings, or difference in Politics to make these remarks — they spring from a higher Motive. —

Your remarks on Mr Harpers⁴ speech are in a great degree just enough, but as false Religion has been made the Cloak for great Vices, so has a pretended Philosophy been the ground work of Vast mischiefs — In the eyes of the discreet & discerning, true Religion, & real Philosophy, should not loose any of their important & Divine influence, because base men have prostituted both by false pretensions —

Your observations relative to the incorrect information on the real State of affairs among the great mass of the People, & the causes of it correspond entirely with my own opinion; to find fault, abuse, and write infamous insinuations to Degrade our own Government, is the highth of some Mens Ambition, & the greatest evi-

3 Grove's party bias incapacitated him for a fair estimate of his party opponents. His reference here is to Nathaniel Macon, Republican representative of the Hillsboro District (Warren, Franklin, Granville, Wake, and Orange counties) from 1791 to 1815, in the latter year entering the United States Senate where he served until 1828, resigning because of advancing age. Macon was Speaker of the House of Representatives from 1801 to 1806. Without showy qualities, Macon possessed a keen, though perhaps somewhat narrow intellect, and was unquestionably one of the ablest legislators in Congress during his thirty-seven years of continuous service.

4 Robert Goodloe Harper, an able and active Federalist member of Congress from South Carolina.

dence of their attention to the Happiness & interests of their Country men; — their object is to flatter the ignorant, & to increase their own Consequence among the Malcontents; this Kind of *Patriotic* information is jumbled together in a *printed Circular* and sent throughout the Country to Poison the People like the effluvia which rises from this City in the *time of a Pestilence* — I now and then get a squint at these effusions of Congressional Literature, & baseness — for I consider it the basest act on earth to libel and Degrade ones own Country —

I have lately seen a printed letter of this kind by chance, sent by a Colleague to the Western District, *I say sent*, for tis evidently not penned by him — tis replete with charges & insinuations the most false and inimical to the Union, & the Independence of America — and to confidence in the Government of our Country that you can Conceive, and in my opinion If the People can rely fully and implicitly on the Information, they should resist the authority of their own Governt. — If a Copy of this Letter can be had it will be and must be published — and indeed I am not sure but some further notice must be taken of it — the name of Joe McDowell⁵ is annexed to the letter I allude to — and my reason for Supposing *he did not pen it*, is that tis generally spelt right, & the stile & grammer is tolerable tho this may have been done for him by a contemptable wretch here named Calendar⁶ who tis said gets his bread by writing circulers for the more illiterate Jacobin Mem-

5 Colonel Joseph McDowell is here meant. He was a Republican of the strongest type, and representative in Congress of the Western District of North Carolina from 1793 to 1795 and from 1797 to 1799. Colonel McDowell was a major at the battles of Cowpens and King's Mountain; after the Revolution was often a member of the General Assembly; was a member of the State Constitution Convention of 1788; also a commissioner to run the dividing line between North Carolina and Tennessee. He died in August, 1801.

6 James Thompson Callender, a Scotchman, serving as a hack writer for the Republicans in their attacks upon the Federalist Administration. He was frequently used even by Jefferson himself to perform unsavory political tasks. In 1800 Callender was tried under the Sedition Law for the production and publication of "The Prospect Before Us," an attack upon Adams and the administration. A fine of two hundred dollars and imprisonment for nine months failed to reform him, he devoting the period of imprisonment to the production of further scurrilous pamphlets.

bers⁷ of Congress.

I made the enquiry you desired about Messrs. Laird & Edie, and learn that no claims from them are before the Board — Very few claims are before the Commissrs.,⁸ their Determination on these will establish the Principles that will govern them on all Similar cases, & We are in great fear that very different Constructions are intended to be put on the 6th. artic. of the Treaty than we expected, which will have a Very unpleasant & arbitrary, nay unjust, operation on the U. States.

I can assure you that I feel much gratified that your prospects are so favorable from the rising Value of your Western Lands — and I hope they may enable you to get through any and all old embarrassments which has given you so much anxiety — It is said that Kentucky Lands in the old Settlements are rather on the fall, perhaps your's may rise in preportion being on the frontier.

Your last of the 16th. from F. Ville I can not now answer, as I have seen none of the Heirs of Mr Morris⁹ to tauk to them on the subject of your letter, but I will attend to its object. —

We had not learned by last accounts that our Commissrs¹⁰ had left France, and We are astonished at their remaining in that Country after assurances they would leave it before now, & the accos. of Negotiations being Commenced is without Foundation — I fear they have been Deluded to remain under Various pretexts, for the insidious purposes of keeping alive the hopes & designs of their friends among us, while they were preparing to take more Hostile measures against us.

Our Coast — Bays, & mouths of Rivers have been for some time past swarming with French Picaroons & Privateers who take all Vessels they meet with in, or outward Bound — Our Small Fleet will soon be at Sea, & We have Authorized the taking &c all such Piratical armed Vessels as may be found on our Coast Committing

7 The Republicans were called Jacobins by the Federalists because of their pro-French sympathies.

8 Commissioners on British Debts, already noted.

9 Reference to the settlement of an estate of which Grove was administrator.

10 Adams' first commission, Pinckney, Gerry, and Marshall.

Depredations on our Peaceful Commerce — this measure the opposition gentry have the folly & impudence to call *waging war*" on the French — thus to Defend our property & Country against the basest plunderers, brings upon the Adminisn. the Vilest epithets — and charges of partiality for Britain — These Gentlemen even try to induce a Belief that all the Conversation of our Commissrs in Paris was with a lot of Swindlers &c. &c. — & that the great Directory had no hand in the Business —

However a Genl. Hedonville who the French have lately sent to Command in the Ws. Indies having seen the Dispatches were published in this Country, has written to the French Consul here, a letter which he and their Emissaries in this Country thought might be useful in taking off part of the odium on the French Govert. & it has been published — but that letter Confirms if any Conformation was wanting that the French Govert. had Resolved to *demand of us Contributions* &c. &c.

I shall end this letter by saying If I did not see a Spirit among some People to prostrate our Country & its Independence to France, I should feel no fear or apprehension from any Foreign Nation on earth, for I verily believe we have little to fear from any Nation except that Ambitious & avaricious quarter —

With best respects to all friends I am

Dear Sir

your friend

& Hum Sert.

W. B. GROVE

To James Hogg.

Philadelphia July 8, 1798

Dear Sir

I wrote you a line immediately on the arrival of Genl.

11 Desultory naval warfare begun with France almost immediately after the X. Y. Z. disclosures.

Marshall,¹ & informed you of our expectation that *your friend Genl Pinckney* would soon be with us, as he left Paris about the 15th. of April and went to the South of France only for a short time to recruit the Health of his Daughter – since that we have no accounts of him, I earnestly wish for his arrival & Safety.

Mr Gerry² remained in consequence of Tallyrand's intimation, & contrary to the opinion of his Colleagues, & of Genl Pinckney's in particular – this conduct of Mr G. has excited some uneasiness, more especially as tis an evidence of "the Diplomatic Skill of France" to Divide and Disunite us – his friends seem confident he will do nothing to dishonour himself, or the Nation, and yet his obstinacy may increase our Difficulties by keeping alive the Spirit of the Partizans of France among us, for it begins now to appear pretty clearly that this Country must either become *Tributary to France*, or Defend itself with *Vigour & energy* – The latter is certainly the Choice of all Men who regard the *Independence, or rights of a Free People*, and under this impression Congress have acted since the Views of France have been fully unfolded – If We are united & true to each other, We can procure Justice & an honorable indemnification, & will prove to the World, that tho' We are slow to take Arms even to avenge our Wrongs, yet when insulted into resentment, We will act like Men who know the Value of our rights, & who are Resolved to Defend them at the risk of every thing – We have greatly augmented our Maratime force, & from the public spirit of the monied men in the great towns, It is expected we shall add several Frigates &c to our little Fleet – private Subscripsns. to an immense amount is obtained in Boston, N. York, Phila. Baltimore &c. to Build Ships to be loaned to Government – We have authorized the increase of our Military establishment to ten thousand Men, In addition to a Provisional Army of the same number, & such Volunteer Corps as may offer their services under the 2d clause of this Law. –

1 John Marshall, of Virginia, one of the commissioners to France, recently returned to the United States.

2 Elbridge Gerry, the only Republican member of the commission, at the invitation of Tallyrand, French minister of foreign affairs, remained at Paris and had some further negotiations with the French government after his col-

Need I tell you that all our preparations for Defence will require additional funds, We shall however try to apportion the sums to be raised in as equitable a manner as possible.

It is proposed to raise 2 Million of Dollars in the U. States on Houses, Lands, & Negroes, the latter are to be rated at half a Dollar pr head from 12 to 50 years of age - Houses & Lands are to be valued & pay a Certain pr. Centage on their value - each State pays their own quota according to the Number of Inhabitants - White Polls pay nothing.

I hoped to have been at Home before now, and [*Remainder of letter missing.*]

*To James Hogg.*¹

*have the utmost respect & Confidence in Mr H integrity & good Policy*² yet they are not so drilled as the opposition generally are, Not to dare to express an opinion contrary to the sentiments of a Jef - - n, a Gall - - n,³ or a Nicholas⁴ — Tis probable from the Divisions in the Legislature of this State as to the mode of Electing Electors,⁵ that they will have no vote; The Federal Men desire that Electors

leagues had departed, thus incurring the severe displeasure of the administration and the Federalist party generally.

1 The beginning of this letter is missing. Its precise date cannot be determined, but from the content we know it to have been written a short time before the presidential election of 1800.

2 Thomas Jefferson.

3 Albert Gallatin of Pennsylvania.

4 John Nicholas, Representative in Congress from Virginia and a staunch Republican.

5 Grove wrote from Philadelphia. At that date, like all the other States, three excepted, Pennsylvania chose her presidential electors in joint session of her legislature. In 1800 the Senate being Federalist and the House Republican, there was a deadlock, the Senate hoping to defeat the will of the Republican majority by refusing to go into joint session, thus to prevent the vote of the State being cast at all. A compromise was finally reached by which Adams was given seven votes and Jefferson eight.

should be appointed by Districts, the other party, as in Virgia, want a general ticket by which Faction & party have a greater field to display itself, & the People are obliged to vote for many Men they know nothing of —

New York appoint by *joint Ballot* and no doubt is entertained but Mr Adams will have the whole of that State, also Jersey and the whole of the Eastern States — Delaware — and perhaps the whole of Maryland, as the State Legislature have it in contemplation to meet for the express purpose of Appointing the Electors themselves, to counteract the new Virginia plan.⁶ If Maryland elect Districts, it is supposed Adams will have 7 — I do hope that our State will not be so completely under the guidance of her overgrown, imperious Sister again the dupe of her local and insinuating intrigues as upon a former occasion;⁷ and tho' Commissioners may be again sent to *reside near our Board of Electors*, and Coax, or threaten them — I trust they will prove of no avail, and that every Federal Man may be as firm as *Martin*, of Moore, who I hope will be our Elector from F. Ville⁸ again, and tho' him and myself have some cause to be chagrined, at his not having been offered a Captaincy upon my recommendation & without his knowledge, yet I am persuaded he is above a resentment on the Country, by not voting for Adams because there seems to have been some inattention or mistake, in paying that respect to him which his conduct merited — I have explained the thing to him as far as I am Capable from the information I have had — & the neglect has produced some censure on the War Depart. here, among those who the thing has been mentioned to — But the President knew nothing of this matter, till latterly —

Genl. Pinckney,⁹ or Major Pinckney¹ is taulked of as Vice P — by

6 Virginia, North Carolina, and Maryland chose electors by popular vote in districts.

7 A reference to Virginia's influence, politically upon North Carolina, especially in the election of 1790 when the North Carolina Federalists carried only one electoral vote for Adams.

8 Fayetteville, Grove's home.

9 Charles C. Pinckney of South Carolina, Federalist vice-presidential candidate in 1800 and 1804, did not elect in 1804. In 1800 Adams and Pinckney secured 65 electoral votes as against 73 for Jefferson and Burr.

the Federal side – I dont know the Genl., but what I hear he is a man of more *eclat* of Character, but I am inclined to believe We have few men in our Country possessing more of the qualities of Washington than Major P--- He is not a great Orator, but he is a man of excellent practical sense, and Classical Education – a perfect Gentleman in his manners, *Firm, mild, unaffected*, & Dignified in his Deportment; commanding at once respect, and Esteem from all who are in his Company. –

It is supposed however by some that the Genl, is the most Popular, & more likely to succeed in getting Votes as he is more Personally known in many of the States, and is a very pleasant Companionable Man –

As the latest European news is by the way of Charleston, I presume you will have seen the accounts before we had them here – the only matters of importance is the new Constitun.¹⁰ of France; & the Correspondence between Consul Buonaparte & Lord Grenville¹² about Peace –

The Constitution seems to me to be a strange mixture of Despotism, and insult offered to the nation, *with Liberty equality & Republicanism*, hashed up in the French stile, to hide from the most Vulgar & Ignorant, the Contemptable & deplorable Situation the great Mass of the People are brought to by their own folly, and the *Infamous treachery* of most of their Pretended Patriots – What is to be the end of the Colossal Consul, & his Government is not easy to conjecture in a nation like France, where nothing is to be calculated on the ground of *Reason or experience* – some think He will soon share the fate of Caesar, whilst others expect He will become a second Cromwell, and make Crowned Heads tremble on their throne, and renovate the energies of his Nation – It seems from the reply of Lord Grenville, that notwithstanding the *New*

10 Thomas Pinckney of South Carolina, Federalist vice-presidential candidate in 1796 and a brother of C. C. Pinckney.

11 The French Directory was overthrown by Bonaparte in November, 1799, and the Consulate set up under a constitution that gave Bonaparte supreme power.

12 Lord William Grenville, England's Foreign Minister in the younger Pitt's cabinet, resigned office February 1801; Prime Minister 1806-1807.

*King*¹³ had written in Very flattering terms to his Brother of England, the *old King*¹⁴ seems to have Very little Confidence in his proposals, & recommends him to restore the *antient Princes*, tho he does not make that a *Sine qua non* to a Peace¹⁵ -

We are in hourly expectations of hearing from the Envoys,¹⁶ and think it somewhat Strange that Capt. Barry does not return - It is fully expected from the Complexion of affairs that all our differences will be amicably settled and If the French *let us alone*, they may have a Revolution every decade if they please -

I was not a little Vexed at seeing in Gales¹⁷ paper a censure on Cap. Truxton¹⁸ for having so Gallantly beat the French 54 - Such actions will tend more to insure Justice and Respect from France, and the World, than a thousand whining speeches in Congress about Peace, the Power of France, and the inability of this Country to Defend her national rights on the Ocean -

'Tis very late at night - please Remember me to Mr Alves.¹⁹
I am

Dr Sir

Yr Huml Sert

W B GROVE

13 A contemptuous reference to Bonaparte and his assumption of Sovereign authority in France.

14 George III.

15 These negotiations ultimately led to a temporary peace between Bonaparte and England signed at Amiens in March, 1802.

16 This was Adams' famous second mission to France, composed of Oliver Ellsworth, Wm. Vans Murray, and William R. Davie.

17 Joseph Gates, editor of the *Raleigh Register*. This paper was established at Raleigh in 1789 as the organ of the Republican party in North Carolina.

18 Barry and Truxton were Commodores in the American Navy. Desultory sea-fighting with France proceeded in 1799 and 1800 while the negotiations of Adams' second commission were under way. In February, 1800, Commodore Truxton, in command of the American frigate *Constellation*, attacked the French fifty-four gun frigate, *La Vengeance*, off Basseterre and after a long drawn out and desperate engagement put her to flight.

19 Walter Alves, brother of Mrs. James Hogg and member from Orange county of the lower branch of the State Legislature in 1793, 1794, 1795; also Treasurer, Secretary, and Trustee of the University of North Carolina. He later removed to Kentucky and settled near Henderson in that State.

To James Hogg.

Raleigh 14th. March 1801

Dear Sir

Some Business led me to take Halifax in my way Home, that circumstance prevents me from adding to the length of my journey by calling at your place—Before this you will have seen Mr Jeffersons address to the public at his inauguration,¹ which many think very clever and as moderate as could be expected—

If we compare it with those writings attributed to Mr J. viz his letter to Mazzini &c. — one of two things occurs, either that he is a great Hypocrite, or that his *Notions* of our Constitution is greatly changed—In his letter he says “they have given us the forms of the British Governmt, & now endeavoring to give us the Substance” — in his address *our Constitution is the best & Strongest, & the Worlds last hope &c*

However, these are only trifles to the inconsistencies & evidences of Mr Jeffersons arts & machivellian policy to get at the head of American affairs; I earnestly hope & pray we may have no worse proofs of those arts & that policy, *than his words & inconsistencies*—

It is very certain our new Admin. have very strong prejudices against Britain, & partiality for France, but they are aware that tho’ they expressed & inculcated those sentiments heretofore, that now they are *Responsible* for the Peace of the Country, having the direction of the Government, it will not do to indulge in those feelings to the extent of their wishes, as it might endanger their *Popularity* with the nation, who regard Peace & Commerce with our best Customers as a primary object—this is a circumstance of which Mr J. & his friends are fully aware of, & will tend to *check their hatred, & partiality* not a little—for tho’ these impressions are strongly rooted in many of them, yet the *wish & Love of Popu-*

1 The Federalist party had been overturned in 1800 and Jefferson, regarded by his party opponents as a rabid radical in whose hands the fate of the country was unsafe, was inaugurated president March 4th 1801. Grove was correspondingly disgruntled. However, Grove was able to again effect his own re-election to Congress this year, but this proved to be his last term.

larity in the new Adminn. will in my opinion *bear down all other considerations* —

As I presume you have seen Mr Henderson,² I suppose, you have rec'd from him all the news of the day that I am possessed of, therefore I shall add nothing more at present —

The Certift. about your Funded debt, I will forward you at some other time after I get home — I could not get any Bank notes at Washington,³ but *Columbia Bank notes*, and I was informed they did not pass freely in this State, or to the Westward, owing to the small intercourse between the trading part of the Community & the new City — I recd. three quarters Dividends of your Funded debt amounting to \$131 — as well as I now remember, but when we meet, I will furnish you with an exact acct. in the mean time I enclose you \$100 — including one bank note of \$10 — If I am not at your next Supr. Court, I hope to see you at Fayette —

In the mean time I am

with real regard

Dr Sir

Yr. Humbl Sert

W. B. GROVE

To James Hogg.

Washington 9th. March 1802

Dear Sir

Had anything very interesting occurred here, I would have done myself the pleasure of troubling you with a letter before now — You will have seen in the News papers, the course & progress of Public measure under the new Adminn. — time, and wise men, will unfold how far some of those measures are consistent with the Constitution & real interests of the Nation — To undo, much of what had been done under former Adminns. seems to be the order of the day⁴ —

² Archibald Henderson, of Salisbury, Representative of his district in Congress. A Federalist, like Grove, Henderson also lost his seat in 1803.

³ The government took up its permanent residence at Washington, the new Capital, June 15, 1800.

⁴ The new Republican Administration, supported by Congress, set itself

On the arrival of the French troops at St Domingo the *Blacks*² resisted their landing, & burnt & massacred all before them — the scene must have been dreadful —

It is feared here, that part of the French forces are intended for New Orleans, as tis believed the Spaniards have ceded that country to Buonaparte³ — this apprehension gives us some uneasiness, for all Parties seem to prefer, the indolent *Aristocratic Dons* for Neighbors, to the *Ambitious* and turbulent *Monsieurs*, notwithstanding their high pretensions to Liberty & Republicanism.

I have recd. from Mr Hooper⁴ your Power of atty to *transfer* your Funded Stock to him, & the Dividends due from Jany 1800 — but tho' the power is sufficient to *transfer the Stock* tis not sufficient to *receive* the Dividends standing in your name — As Mr H. wishes the Stock sold, and the Dividends *received*, I take the liberty to request you to forward me by first Post, a power to draw & receive the same, in the same form, as those you heretofore sent me, to the end I may comply with Mr Hoopers request — I have dropped Mr H. a line informing him of the *defect* in the old power in regard to *receiving* the Dividends standing in your name —

I hope to get away from this place about the middle of April, tho' I suspect Congress will not rise before the 1st. May —

Mrs Grove is pretty well, & desires me to send her respects to you, & Complms. to you and your Household —

With real regard

I am

Dear Sir

yr Humb Ser.

W. B. GROVE

the task of repealing much of the objectionable Federalist legislation effected in its last years and months of power; among these were the Alien and Sedition Acts, the "Mid-night" Judiciary Act, etc.

2 The Island of Hayti was at this date in rebellion against French authority, the blacks being led by the famous Toussaint L'Ouverture.

8 This supposition was correct, the transfer having been made in the treaty of San Ildefonso in the year 1800. All America was stirred by the transfer, fear not being allayed until the territory was purchased from France in 1803.

4 Very probably Thomas Hooper, lawyer, of Hillsboro, son of Wm. Hooper, signer of the Declaration of Independence.



WERT BOOKBINDING

JAN 1989

Grantville, PA

